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All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office 823 Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.

We shall publish, in our next, extracts from the proceedings of the quarterly meeting of the Commission, now being held in Washington.

"WHY DOES THE SANITARY COMMISSION NEED SO MUCH MONEY?"

If the people furnish supplies liberally without cost, and if the storehouses and treasuries of the various Branches of supply are full, how is it that the Central Treasury of the Sanitary Commission calls for and disposes of so much money? This is a plain question, honestly asked; and there is a plain and honest answer. It is this: a large amount of money is needed, because the present machinery of the Commission, which is supported by the Central Treasury, cannot be kept in motion without a very large cash expenditure; and the judgment of sagacious, humane, and carefully calculating men, to whom the whole matter has been submitted, decides, without qualification, that all this machinery must be kept a-going—that large as its cost is, the results for good which depend upon it are so much larger, that the Commission, as the trustees of the people's bounty and representatives of their benevolence, the executors of their will, could not find a justification in allowing the expensiveness of the system to cause its discontinuance until a fair statement of their intention to discontinue it, and the reason why they intended to do so, should have been laid before the people, and the question put, Shall the Sanitary Commission, or shall they not, go on with this work in all its breadth, involving this annual expenditure? Shall they drop all other branches of their work, and limit themselves to the charge of merely "distributing the supplies" which are sent to them; or shall they keep up their entire system, embracing, with this distribution of supplies, sanitary inspection by medical men, of camps and of field hospitals; sanitary inspection, by medical men, of general hospitals; special relief, with all its agencies, and in all its various departments; the hospital directory, with its register, and its 500,000 names?

The fact of the case is this, that the work of distributing supplies to the sick and wounded, while of course it involves much expense, is but one of five directions in which the Sanitary Commission are laboring to ward off disease and death from the soldier, to insure speedy recovery, to relieve the anxiety of relatives at home, to make the dear-bought experience of regiments already long in the war, available to regiments just entering the field. Part of this work suggested itself and grew up as the Commission went on, but most of it entered into the original plan of the Commission, which was based upon the idea that what the army needed from outside itself, was not merely additional clothes, and food, and care in times of emergency, but a better understanding of the conditions for securing health, and more urgent inducements with more constant constraints and influences to lead to a regard for every possible law which would guard against or check disease. Hence the whole department of "Sanitary Inspection" was established in field and hospital, involving large expense, and to the casual observer producing no very important results,—in the whole of its work making less show of re-

lief or aid to the soldier than would be made by the distribution of one wagon load of supplies to wounded or dying men—yet in its actual effects probably saving more lives to the army and to friends at home than has ever been done by the distribution of any five hundred wagon loads of these same supplies.

The Special Relief department also involving now in its constant enlargement a heavy and increasing outlay, is one of the branches of the Commission's work which has very little to do with supply distribution, and was not indeed embraced in the original plan of organization. Yet this same Special Relief work with its "Lodges" and "Homes" all along the Atlantic coast, on the shores of the Mississippi, and inland, wherever an army is found, could not be given up to-day without to-morrow and each following day exposing to manifold evils, at least three thousand men who now are protected.

So of the "Hospital Directory," with its agencies for giving prompt and accurate information to those at home concerning the sick and wounded throughout the army; this involves large expense, so much so that a few months since those who hold themselves responsible for the right use of the money put into their hands by the people, almost decided that they had no right to continue this branch of the Commission's work, which after all was not for the aid of the soldiers so much as for the relief of the anxious solicitude of friends; but when the proposal to give it up was discussed, it was found that there was an immense pressure from "the people," demanding the continuance of this servant, and friend, and comforter of theirs. This too had grown up, not as part of the original plan of the Commission, and surely in nowise connected with the distribution of needed supplies, but it had come out of an urgent call of the people that those who in their name were helping the soldiers in the field, should now also help them at home—the fathers, wives, and mothers—by answering their inquiries about the sick and wounded. Thus it was that this Hospital Directory, with all its aids for securing and transmitting information, had sprung up out of the demands of the people, and the people ask to be and are called upon to defray the expense of its continuance.

Such is the history, brought down to the present time, of those four departments of the Commission's labor, additional to the work of "Supply Distribution." The cost of maintaining these four departments with the largeness which the interests of half a million enlisted men, and half a million homes ask for, and with the thoroughness which wise economy unites with medical science in demanding, cannot be less than thirty thousand dollars each month. And it is with the express understanding that to such use this much of the money will be appropriated, that funds are asked for and contributed to carry on "the work of the Commission." The detail of these expenditures in each one of these branches is open for examination, and the result of such examination by careful business men, who have themselves contributed largely to the very money thus used, and who measure also the work which is done, is this: Those men say, the Sanitary Commission would be false to duties assumed, and to duties providentially laid upon them—false also to the people, whose work this really is—false likewise to the age which gives the opportunity for just this work of filling up generously a great page of a nation's history—an opportunity given at just this time, the one year out of a century—false to all this, they say, would the Commission be if it did not persevere and carry on all these agencies for good, confidently and unhesitatingly asking the people for whatever money is really needed, with fit economy, for the work.

Thus it is that the "Central Treasury," from which all these departments of the Commission's work draw their support, needs constant renewal, although the Branches of supply (lately so amply furnished by the proceeds of the "Sanitary Fairs" held in various sections of the country) may be stored to overflowing with goods and money.

But the whole ground is not covered by this statement. All persons employed by the Commission in every part of the vast field draw their pay from the Central Treasury. Moreover, it has become the settled policy of the Commission to employ

paid agents. A large experience, with a jealous regard to a right and economical use of funds entrusted to their care, has convinced the Commission beyond question that in a work continuing thus for years, the only wise method is to employ the best men that can be obtained, with compensating pay; that thus only can be secured continued and experienced labor, (one of the most important of all things in this work)—systematic effort—a sense of responsibility to those in authority—entire yielding up of time and strength to the service—and a right on the part of the officers of the Commission to remove any person from the service who may prove to be incompetent or ill suited to the work. Under the volunteer system of agency, which may answer well where a comparatively narrow field is covered, and for a work which is limited to weeks or months—none of these absolutely essential ends can be secured. And although this work of the Sanitary Commission is a benevolent work, and its benefits are gratuitous to those who receive them, yet it has to be conducted in its large labors with *thorough business method.* This, too, is to be borne in mind, that this system of paid agents does not exclude the advantage of having in the work disinterestedness and religious earnestness. On the contrary, many men of just those characteristics, and who because of the spirit which was in them entered into the work, are now retained among the paid agents; they were men who could give a few months to the cause, but were not justified in giving years. And in selecting persons additional to be employed, the aim of the Commission is always to get men whose hearts are there before their hands are called to take hold.

But once more, the Central Treasury is drawn upon, not only for maintaining the various departments already named, and for the pay of all the persons employed by the Commission east and west—some two hundred men, including its corps of Medical Inspectors—but also for the purchase of such supplies as are needed in emergencies where there is no time to send to distant Branches and storehouses. In this way after a single battle, sometimes fifteen or twenty thousand dollars are used, every single dollar of which probably helps to meet some real want or to save a life. From the Central Treasury also comes the money which maintains in the field with each army corps independent means of transportation for carrying with the army as it moves and distributing there sanitary supplies. This is the system now adopted by the Commission. There is also the expense incurred of purchasing horses and wagons with which to transport supplies from the nearest depots to battle-fields. This expense is often very large, but it has more than once proved of incalculable benefit, enabling us to reach the wounded with our stores on the field, long in advance of the Government stores. For, as is well known, according to existing laws, the Medical Department can draw supplies, but is utterly powerless as to ordering them forward to the field, there being *no independent transportation* at the control of that Department. The Medical officer is obliged to make over his supplies to the Quartermaster's Department for transportation, where, with the immense burden which is heaped up there, there is often an unavoidable delay which is death to the wounded who are waiting upon the field. So long as this law continues, by which the hands of the Medical Department are thus tied, "so long"— as one of the Medical Bureau recently said, a member of the Regular Army—"is there an absolute necessity that the Sanitary Commission stand ready with its *independent transportation* to carry forward at the earliest moment supplies to the battle-fields."

Such is an enumeration of some of the principal demands which the Central Treasury of the Sanitary Commission must always be prepared to meet. In their aggregate these demands call for a monthly deposit in the Treasury of forty thousand dollars.

Such is the record, and the record is the appeal. It asks whether the people wish this agency in behalf of the soldiers in tent and in hospital, and on the battle-field—at the east, and at the west, and at the south—to cease; or whether it is their will to have it continue in its largeness of plan, its scientific exactness, its thoroughness of detail, its promptness in meeting emergen-

cles, its ability to do all that the friends at home would themselves desire to do for our soldiers. If the people say it must still go on with its work, then must they contribute liberally not only to the Branches, and to the local sources of supply, but also to the Central Treasury of the Commission; and as long as the war continues, so long shall a full record be furnished to them.

NEW YORK, January 7, 1864.

MY DEAR MR. OTIS: I acknowledged by telegraph to-day, your great contribution of $50,000, being the January and February installments of California's support of the Sanitary Commission.

I had the pleasure of opening your letter, with its now well-known and welcome handwriting, in the presence of half a dozen leading merchants of New York, who happened to be in the office at the time on other business; and could you have heard their tributes to the loyalty and generosity of your noble State, it would have repaid you for your long and devoted attention to our interests, and partly paid the people of California for their magnificent behavior. The constancy and methodical liberality of the Pacific Coast to our Sanitary Commission as their almoner, is our chief dependence. You will hear a great deal of the vast Sanitary Fairs at Chicago, Cincinnati, Boston, Buffalo, Albany, Washington, at which very large sums of money are raised, and you may very naturally think that it must be high water in our Central Treasury! It is important that the people of California should understand that all this money is fitly expended by the Branches themselves *in the purchase of supplies*—which supplies are forwarded to our receiving depot for distribution. But the whole cost of distribution, with the men, wagons, horses, and machinery of every kind which transports supplies and makes them useful and saving to the army, all these accumulated comforts and necessaries falls upon our Central Treasury; which has more to do, and is more indispensable, precisely according to the amount of supplies that are furnished to it. The more money the Branches have, the more supplies we have; and the more supplies we have, the more it *costs* to forward them, distribute and supply them to our vast army, scattered over our wide country.

All the money and all the supplies that could be raised and furnished would be as useless to the army without us, as the rains on the hill sides of the Croton River would be to the city of New York, if the city had not built an expensive aqueduct; which accumulates, economizes, and distributes, by an intricate and costly system of mains, and gates, and trainers, and pipes, and stop-cocks, this water to every house, every kitchen and chamber, every wash-bowl and pitcher and mouth in New York!

The United States Sanitary Commission is the aqueduct, with its enormous pipes of supply, and its diversified pipes of distribution, now laid down over the whole field of war, and maintained, with all the necessary breakages and changes of position and spread of operations, from Texas to Kentucky; from Kansas to Virginia; from the Potomac to the Rio Grande; from Portland to Charleston, and Fernandina, and Ship Island; from Chicago to Cleveland, Cincinnati, Louisville, Cairo, Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga, and wherever the army stays or goes. Understand, then, that the wealth of the Branches is indispensable to the soldier's relief, but that their wealth only makes us poor—by giving us more to do and nothing to do it with! We are like a stage company, with an immense number of passengers, but left without forage for our horses, or horses for our coaches; or, rather, we should be so if California did not make herself the great motive power for the Central Machinery of the Sanitary Commission, and thus furnish horses and forage, by which our overflow of passengers (the supplies!) are all expeditiously transported to their destination, (the sick and wounded, or the naked and hungry soldiers!) Don't strain what I say too far. We are not so ungrateful as to say that the nation has left us without support for our Central Machinery; for we have received into our Treasury about a million of dollars: but of this million, the Pacific Coast has supplied us with nearly $700,000, leaving only $300,000 to come from the rest of the nation! The Atlantic States are waking up to this disproportion, and a wholesome emulation is aroused. They are now pre-

paring a great National Metropolitan Fair at New York, for the benefit of the Central Treasury of the Commission, which will come off late in March; at which they hope, at one blow, to raise perhaps a half million of dollars, and so equalize the contribution of the Atlantic with the Pacific! I rejoice at this holy jealousy. I have told our able and rich men that if they wished the United States Sanitary Commission to throw itself into the arms of its devoted friends in California, and depend *wholly* on her liberality for the support of its Central Machinery, that we were not afraid of the result; that the newspapers from the interior of that State and from Oregon and Washington Territory, as well as private letters, were all assuring me of the devoted and unstinted sympathy and pride of the Pacific Coast in the unexampled work of mercy and love that they had made so largely their own; and that the nation this side the Rocky Mountains had only to give us one cold shoulder, or to indicate its fatigue at our dependence upon her, to make us very sure of having the whole heart, and as much of the golden and silver veins as we needed, of your young and generous wealth, put at our disposal! But our people are too wise and shrewd to allow you to appropriate this privilege exclusively to yourselves!

The United States Sanitary Commission, our Central Board, originated, designed, and set in motion all this now vast machinery, both in the homes and peaceful States, where supplies are accumulated, and in the field, where they are distributed. Its operations are on too vast a scale, its relations to this war too momentous, its record too honorable, its work and principles too deeply wrought into the tender experiences and grateful memories of nearly a million of men, who in the field and in the hospital have at one time or another had their hunger and nakedness, their wounds and fatigues, their sore feet and bleeding limbs, ministered to by this Institution, not to make the sagacious and fore-looking think, that the time is coming, after the hurry of this war is over, when the question will be carefully asked, who planned, who worked, who supported this United States Sanitary Commission, who supplied the brains, and who the heart and who the *money* by which this the largest, most successful, and most beneficent charity which Christian history has ever seen, was set a-going and kept a-going? There are even people who begin to foresee that the political value of a good record in this Commission, is worth careful consideration. Now, the loyal North and West, numerous as the demands which the bounties and the supports of soldiers' families and all the other local expenses of the war make upon them, do not mean to be behindhand in their support of the Commission. They are beginning to see, too, that it is not enough to make their record perfectly clean to support merely the home branches generously, for they foresee that when a due consideration is given to the subject, it will appear to all that the Central Machinery, the Sanitary Commission proper, recognized by the Government, co-ordinated with the medical department, welcomed and trusted by the generals, loved and relied upon because alone known and seen by the soldiers themselves in hospital and camp, is the final heir of whatever interest, or national glory, or gratitude this movement has awakened, as it is the sole condition of the actual serviceableness of the branches themselves. Accordingly, the country here is beginning to say that California must not run away with all this gratitude of the soldiers, must not fasten on herself the eyes of the whole world and all future history, as the head nurse of the great American army in its memorable and glorious war for the permanent establishment of our national liberties. We hope, at least, that this is the growing feeling. We earnestly and fondly desire to make our support *national*, to draw no more from the Pacific than from the Atlantic. We are anxious to see the account squared, and as much in the scale, the centre being the Rocky Mountains, which hangs on this side, as on yours when the war terminates. If, however, we are disappointed in this hope, we shall not be discouraged; for we shall not be without *your* enthusiastic, *your* ever growing and evermore gracious and cheerful support. If I were not properly and sincerely jealous of my own Atlantic region, and did not for her own sake, and for the sake of her future honor and dig-

nity, wish to see her abreast with the Pacific, in this truly national enterprise, I should not hesitate a moment to fling the Commission and the soldiers, sick and wounded, on your exclusive nursing and care. I believe you would do it; I know you would do it. But I will not consent to relinquish to California this imperishable honor, which would give her a political and moral pre-eminence above her sisters for all times, without a struggle for New York and Massachusetts, and Ohio and Illinois, and Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, and every other loyal State in our cis-alpine region. But if the hour ever comes when the Central Machinery of the United States Sanitary Commission loses energy and efficiency through the neglect of its patrons and supporters here at home, you may be sure that we shall not see the beautiful and effective system we have matured impaired or abandoned, on any scruple of local or Atlantic pride. No! we shall seize the telegraph wire, attached to the hearts and the coffers of California, and give it such a pull as will be felt in every store, and house, and hut, and mine, and ranche, and heart, and hand in all your region; and at once, from the other end of that magic wire, will begin to drop into our treasury those big, golden heart-drops, which so many times have raised our nearly exhausted reservoir—the rich blood of California's patriotism and humanity poured out like water to assuage the wants and sufferings of our noble army. With our hand on the telegraph wire that ends in your rich hearts and mines, we can patiently and calmly wait the decision of the loyal people of these Golden States. Let them say, "We are tired of your demands; turn to friends less drawn upon than we are," and we shall click at once our despair here and our hope in you, with a faith that will never be shaken, that all the silver and the gold in your mountains must be exhausted before California denies one request of ours made in the name of our sick and wounded patriots. But that hour is not come, and I hope and believe it never will come. I am, however, in any and all events, gratefully and affectionately yours, for the army and the homes and the cause and the Commission, HENRY W. BELLOWS, *President.*

SANITARY MATTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

On arriving at Newbern, I sought the depot of the Commission, and was welcomed by Dr. Page, the gentlemanly inspector of that district, whose services in the department of the South have secured for him a reputation for probity and efficiency which is doubtless merited.

The district allotted to the doctor covers a wide range, embracing in all sixteen general and post hospitals, including a convalescent camp. To all of these stores have been supplied upon the requisitions of the surgeons, and I am happy to know that the most cordial relations exist between the surgeons and the Commission, and that they co-operate most earnestly to promote the well-being of our troops. During my visit it was my privilege to accompany Dr. Samuel McCormick, the Medical Director of the Department, whose inquiries into the condition of the hospitals were thorough and accurate. It was equally pleasing to notice the readiness with which the Medical Director of the post and his associates not only responded to the investigations of their superior officers, but were anxious to make a full exhibit of all the affairs intrusted to them. Dr. Page accompanied the Medical Corps, and the occasion presented a cheering evidence of the unity and fellowship existing between the surgeons and the Commission, and their joint efforts to aid each other in the great work of promoting the comfort of our soldiers.

The Stanley Hospital at Newbern, the Mansfield at Morehead City, and the Hammond at Beaufort, are the chief in size and importance. The two first are erected on the pavilion plan, and are well ordered in all respects. Dr. McCormick directed the use of China table furniture where tin was used, because of its wholesome moral influence upon the troops. It is more home-like, and promotes the reflection that the Government is careful for the comfort and well-being of its defenders.

During the siege at Washington, N. C., the agents of the Commission were on hand with their varied stores, and their usefulness is a matter of record. All the hos-

pital transports were well supplied with the means for "aid and comfort" from the depot at Newbern. About forty regiments have been under inspection, and I judge, from an examination of many of their camps, that they are well policed in most regards. I was particularly impressed with the substantial and comfortable appearance of many of the camps. Log houses, with *glazed windows* and open fire-places, are common. The regimental hospitals are generally comfortable and well supplied.

In the marshy district between Newbern and Morehead City, and on the line of the railroad between these two places, there are several encampments, in which there has been much sickness. At Newport barracks, especially, the men have suffered from intermittent fevers. It is unsafe to allow the same troops to remain long at a time at this point. *The quinine ration has been used freely, and in some localities with marked advantage.* If company officers were held to strict account as to the care of their men, and were required to inspect each one daily, with reference to underclothing especially, cleanliness, the use of prescribed prophylactic means, the temperature and ventilation of quarters, &c., I am satisfied much sickness would be prevented. It is not unfrequently remarked that some companies in the same camp are more sickly than others, and the difference is doubtless owing to the difference in the attention and care given to the men by their officers.

Last year, the scurvy commenced among the troops in this district as early as July; and though it did not prevail to an alarming extent, it was sufficiently prevalent to indicate the importance of adopting means for its prevention this year. If some of the land now vacant in the vicinity of Newburn could be granted by the Government for garden purposes, under the management of the Commission, I am satisfied it would be a great blessing to the army in that region. The land is a sandy loam, with an alluvial sub-soil, containing large quantities of shells and other marine deposits; which, if brought to the surface as a fertilizer, would greatly increase its productiveness, and insure large crops of early vegetables. The ground might now be prepared for onions, which would be ready for use in April. Beans would ripen in May; tomatoes in June; and large supplies of carrots and potatoes might be gathered at various times during the growing season, and a considerable crop stored for winter use. The expense and labor of conducting such small farms as would be necessary to supply the several posts on the coast, would be very small, compared with the immense advantage that would accrue to our troops.

The prisoners of war, confined by rebel authorities, have also been the recipients of aid from our agents in this department; and the cases of individual relief afforded refugees and to soldiers needing transportation, &c., are not a few. Mr. Geo. B. Page acts as the relief agent, and is an earnest worker in the cause.

I should be intruding upon the province of the intelligent representative of the Commission in North Carolina, if I attempted to furnish for your readers the incidents and details which were observed, as they will be presented in his official report; but this hasty sketch is cheerfully submitted.—*Dr. Parrish's Report.*

THE CINCINNATI FAIR.

The Cincinnati Sanitary Fair having the experience of those of Boston and Chicago to profit by, seems to have outdone them both in the variety of its devices for the raising of money, and in the products of the sales. It was opened with speeches from General Rosecranz, Bishop McIlvaine, General Carey, and other notables, national and local. The work fairly started, the number of things that were done to secure its success defy all description or enumeration. There was an Autograph Committee, whose business it was to hunt down celebrities all over the country, and extort from them something in their own handwriting that would satisfy the public craving for this species of curiosity. Of Dr. Wendell Holmes, of Boston, they required that he should be funny "over his own signature," for this special occasion; and difficult as it is to make people laugh to order, he *was* funny accordingly. There has, we venture to say, been nothing in this walk of comicality equal to the following epistle since the list of book-titles

which Thomas Hood made out for the Duke of Devonshire :

BOSTON, December, 14, 1863.

DEAR SIR : You ask me for a list of questions in Natural History, with answers subjoined, for the use of the Instructor. I submit a few, which, I think, will serve your purpose for the proposed examination of the Scientific Class:

"1. What animal produces one of its own parents?

"Answer.—The beaver, which is well known to construct its own *dam*.

"2. Is the Dodo extinct?

"Ans. It is not, as shown by the following bill in my possession :

"'Mr. ——— to X———. Dr.

One mongrel goose	$3 00
One " "	3 00
	$6 00

"3. What is the largest quadruped?

"Ans.—The *mole* of Adrian.

"4. What is the lightest quadruped?

"Ans.—The lynx. The lynx weighs less than an *ounce*.

"5. When does a horse stand on six legs?

"Ans.—When he stands on his *fore* legs and his two hind legs also.

"6. What other insect is the bee afraid of?

"Ans.—The beetle—(scare-a bee-us.)

"7. Is the otter of roses obtained from that animal when fed on other vegetables—cabbages for instance?

"Ans.—Probably. The musk deer furnishes his perfume when fed on *water* melons.

"8. What instance can you give of the cunning of serpents?

"Ans.—The simple fact that they secrete their venom where they can find it when wanted.

"9. Why do the above questions amuse you more than the answers?

"Ans.—Because the person who asks the question is the querist.

"As to the other questions about which you ask my opinion, my answer must be brief.

"Eighteen hours' study out of the twenty-four is too much, I think, for delicate young persons. It does not allow sufficient time for sleep, recreation, and meals.

"I doubt about the introduction of capital punishment as a part of the ordinary college discipline. It will have a good effect on the survivors, no doubt.

"OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES."

There was a "Committee on Trees," whose business it was to dress Christmas trees, and large numbers of them, we need hardly say, were disposed of. There was a Horticultural Department, and it was filled with flowers and plants from various parts of the State. There was a Refreshment Hall, and it was supplied in lavish abundance with every variety of edible, from every place in the neighborhood. The city and its vicinity was divided into districts, and each district covered the tables with cooked dishes of all kinds on a particular day assigned to it—coffee, oysters, turkeys, ducks, chickens, hams, tongues, beefsteaks, cakes, fruits—and a hundred ladies waited on the guests. There was a Ladies' Bazaar, in which almost every thing that ladies can either devise or manufacture, or that they or gentlemen are at all likely to require, was exposed for sale. There is hardly any art or manufacture that was not represented at it, and hardly any department of industry in the West which did not contribute to it. And though last, not least, there was an Art Gallery, containing all the most valuable pictures to be found in Cincinnati or its neighborhood, lent by their owners for the occasion. It must not be forgotten, too, that as we remarked in our last, Cincinnati, young as it is, possesses a collection of pictures and engravings such as only one or two other cities in the Union can boast.

The proceeds of the fair are already calculated in the rough at $200,000. This is a large advance on that of Boston, and a still larger on that of Chicago, and is doubtless due to the experience gained by the example of these cities, as well as to the growth of the enthusiasm which the success of the earlier efforts in this direction have inspired. There is, of course, very little doubt that New York will produce a result in money which will far surpass that of all the other fairs put together, and there is no reason why it should not.

But our readers will find, on our first page, a full, and it is to be hoped a convincing explanation of the fact, that all these fairs, so far from lightening the pressure on the central fund of the commission, increase it.

Dr. E. A. Crane, under date of Dec. 26, 1863, says of the national forces at New Iberia: "The sanitary condition of the army is remarkable. I have never seen in any of our armies so little disease. But little over *four per cent.* (4.3) of the present force is on sick list. Only 5.4 per cent. have been reported sick, including those sent to General Hospital since Oct. 1st. The highest rate obtains in the cavalry division, as most of the picketing now falls upon it. One division of the army reports only 1.4 *per cent. sick.*"

Dr. Crane attributes this remarkable freedom from sickness to "light duties, *fair rations, including sweet potatoes, and an abundance of fresh meat, and a healthy climate.*"

SHALL CALIFORNIA BE ALLOWED TO SUPPORT THE SANITARY COMMISSION?

There seems a probability that if the Atlantic States do not bestir themselves, they may find that California will take the whole work of maintaining the Commission out of their hands. The question already seems to be, not whether she is ready to undertake the task, but whether our self-love, or sense of duty, will allow it to devolve upon her. At a large meeting held in San Francisco a few weeks ago, Mr. William T. Coleman said:

I was somewhat surprised to see that a public announcement was made that a few individuals, mentioned by name, including myself and "other distinguished speakers," should address this meeting. It is scarcely necessary for me to say, that public speaking is not my forte; and I little expected that my name would be announced, as it was, when I consented to come here. Fortunately, the cause requires no eloquence; and, if it did, the requirement would be satisfied by the circulars of the Committee, and the reverend gentleman who is to make the closing speech. It was cheering to Californians in the East, to witness the emulation and spirit caused by the contributions of our state to the Sanitary Fund. Never did a people gain so much at so small a price. The donations coming in a bulk, appeared to be large, but, really, this State has given very little, in comparison to others. The loyal States of the East have all been called upon for contributions in many ways not witnessed here. There were soldiers to be fitted out, wounded soldiers to be received on their return, help to be sent to the battle-field, and appeals were made at every corner. People have not stopped to inquire any thing, save whether the sufferer was a soldier and in need. The Government provided arms and ammunition in abundance, but hospital supplies were lacking; the cause was in danger of great loss by neglecting wounded men in the field and in the hospitals. Then it was that California blazed up suddenly with a brilliant, a golden light, and our State gained a name of which Californians, with all their vanity, may well be proud. Though the Eastern States have given much more, their gifts were not in one large stream, but in numberless rivulets—by States, by cities, by villages, by societies. The treasurer of no eastern association has had the satisfaction of sending $100,000 at one time. But if California should give $100,000 per month, she would not give any more than her share. Congratulate yourselves that you have so little to do, but take care to do it well. This State ought really to bear the entire expenses of the Sanitary Commission. Let us send them more than they ask. We could do it and never miss it. The attention and favor of the Sanitary Commission are not limited to any class of soldiers. No lines are drawn of nativity, or of shades of religious or political opinion. Officers of the Commission do not turn their backs on wounded rebels, but supply their wants also, and God grant that they make better men. There were, not long since, 2,500 sick and wounded rebels at New York, and they were not neglected. The Sanitary Commission has saved more lives and spared more suffering, than any other effort of that kind ever made. I now ask you, fellow-citizens, to again come forward with your contributions and subscriptions. Your wealth is increasing at a rate unequalled in the world, and this great charity is ready to relieve you of part of the responsibility and burden. Send fifty bars of gold and a hundred of silver, through Wells, Fargo & Co., by way of steamer, to the Sanitary Commission, with the compliments of California, and you will strengthen the well with confidence and renewed zeal, and the wounded will find their cup sweeter and their beds softer, while they bless the Golden State. [Applause.]

The San Francisco *News Letter and Mining Journal*, commenting on this, says:

Why should not California assume the entire expenses of the Sanitary Commission? She is able to do it—she should be willing. Why? Through the Sanitary Commission alone can our people adequately and effectively give expression to their loyalty and generous patriotism. We are not called upon to sacrifice our sons on the battle-field, in the swamps, and on the tables of the army surgeons. Our homes are not draped in mourning for their noble manhood turned to dust in the deadly conflict. We are favored of Heaven and of men. Why, then, as our flesh and blood are spared, our property secure, our hearts and hearths safe from the desolation which has hung crape on nearly every door in the Eastern States, should we not willingly, voluntarily, reply to the appeal of the Sanitary Commission? Go on with your glorious work—we will furnish you the means. This shall be our contribution for nationality, liberty, and charity! Our citizens have heretofore given liberally, munificently. Sam. Brannan is reported to have given a thousand dollars recently. That was noble. That was probably not equal to his income for two days, yet it was generous and worthy. Ah, how many at the East would gladly give their entire revenue for two months, could that buy for their property and homes the immunity and prosperity enjoyed by our people! Let our State then take up the support of the Sanitary Commission. Its forces shall be California's army. The sick and wounded saved through our gifts shall be the crown of our glory, the laurels of our victories. Let us make the name of our State a synonym for generosity, which every soldier's heart shall bless whenever he hears it uttered.

It would certainly be a very noble thing for California to do, but it would not be a noble thing for us to allow her to do it. The expenses of the Commission, it must not be forgotten, have so far been regulated rather by its receipts, than by the extent of the work before it. It has never yet done half what it might have done, if it had more money; and if its income were double what it has ever yet been, it would still be

compelled to stop far short of meeting all the demands on its stores and on its energy. Consequently, no matter how much California may give, there will still be a vast amount of suffering left unrelieved, if the East does not likewise do its part.

HELP FROM ABROAD.

Everybody knows, although we possess no statistics on the subject, that there is hardly a city of any size or interest in Europe, which does not possess a colony of Americans, who have gone abroad either to study, themselves, or to educate their children, or to engage in business, or in quest of health, or simply to enjoy themselves. They are to be found in London and Paris by the hundred, in Florence, Rome, Munich, Dresden and Berlin, Baden and Pau, by the dozen, and are nearly all, especially those who are permanently resident in these places, persons of wealth, or, at all events, in very easy circumstances. They are, generally, remarkable for the facility with which they adapt themselves to foreign manners and customs, but are equally remarkable for the tenacity with which they cling to their nationality, and the eagerness, and almost ostentation, with which they proclaim it. Their love of their country, and interest in its fortunes, in fact, as has been proven by their demeanor during the war, seem to gain intensity in the direct ratio of their distance from it. No Americans have been so zealous in their support of the Government, so uncompromising in their loyalty to the Union, as those whose lot has, since our troubles commenced, been cast in foreign lands; and their zeal in its defence has probably been quickened by the fact that they have found themselves for nearly three years, on the continent as well as in England, incessantly engaged in repelling the attacks on the national cause, which, strange to say, most foreigners, for some time past, seem to take special delight in making, whenever, either in steamboat, train, hotel, or even in ordinary social intercourse, they find themselves in the company of Americans.

It has long been a subject of regret that this patriotic fervor of the Americans abroad could not be made to display itself in something more substantial and serviceable than a wordy warfare at dinner tables and in cafés, and that some means could not be provided that would enable them to share in that work of succoring and comforting the armies in the field, in which everybody at home is in one way or other engaged. We are glad to say that this want has at last been supplied by the establishment in Paris of an organization to be known as the "European Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission." It has been started under the auspices, and in a great measure owing to the exertions of Dr. McClintock, the Minister of the American Chapel in the Rue de Berri, aided by a number of active and patriotic Americans, either temporarily or permanently resident in the French capital—and there are a large number of such. They have appointed a Secretary, hired offices, collected money, and are establishing branches in all the places most frequented by Americans in other parts of Europe, and have placed themselves already in communication with, and under the control of, the Sanitary Commission here. Money they hope to be able to send us in considerable sums—that is, considerable for the number of persons from whom it will have to be collected; and offer at the outset to contribute to our stores what it is difficult, if not impossible, to procure here, except at very high prices—a quantity of very fine and perfectly pure brandy. We are in hopes that they may be able to do much in collecting and forwarding contributions to the New York Sanitary Fair from the various European countries. There is one service which they will undoubtedly render, which though perhaps not so immediate in its results, may be of more permanent benefit to the country than any other, by the diffusion of information in Europe touching the medical and sanitary aids which the nation has provided for its armies during this war. There is certainly nothing in our history, or in our actual social condition, entitling us to so high a place in the scale of civilization, as our efforts to save life during the last three years; and they only need, we are quite satisfied, to be more widely known, in order to secure for us a wider and more lasting renown than will ever be won for us by our armies. How little they

are yet known in Europe is, however, revealed by the fact, that at the Sanitary Conference which recently met at Geneva, Switzerland, and was attended by all the leading army surgeons and sanitary reformers in Europe, and of the proceedings of which we gave a summary in the last number of the *Bulletin*, no mention whatever was made, nor did any thing seem to have been heard by the members of it, of the fact that the United States Sanitary Commission had for over two years been engaged in the successful prosecution of the very work of which the Conference met to discuss the possibility; no mention of the fact that we had rendered, through three campaigns, that very aid to the largest army in the world, of which they spoke in all their discussions as a new, unfamiliar problem; no mention of the vast, complicated, and yet perfectly successful organization by which this aid has been afforded; no mention of the great mass of facts of the highest interest, and of the completest novelty, bearing on this whole question of the sanitary condition of armies in the field, which we have collected and collated, and which are to be found in the documents which we have for the last three years been scattering broadcast over the country. Of course, this extraordinary omission, this strange spectacle of scientific men meeting to discuss, in the heart of Europe, the possibility of constructing a machine which had been for years in successful operation only a fortnight's distance from where they sat, was due simply to ignorance. We owe it to the cause of science and humanity, therefore, not less than to our own fame, to see that this ignorance is removed by a wider diffusion in Europe of the printed records of our labors, and this the "European Branch" will aid us materially in doing.

OUR DOINGS IN WASHINGTON.

The agency established by the Commission for the purchase of supplies for the hospitals in Washington, last summer, of the nature and object of which a full explanation will be given in No. 4 of the *Bulletin*, has now been in operation six months, and the report of the agent shows the total weight of the supplies purchased in Philadelphia and delivered in Washington during that period, as taken from the manifests of the Express Company, was 1,738,331 lbs., or 869 tons 331 lbs. This includes the weight of the boxes, barrels, &c., in which the supplies are packed for shipment.

The cost of the above supplies in Philadelphia, delivered to the Express Company, was	$87,361.10
Amount paid Express Company for Transportation,	11,380 06
Amount paid to purchasing agent in Philadelphia,	2,192.82
Amount paid for office and expenses in Philadelphia,	1,567.02
Amount paid in Washington for insuring,	721.21
Total amount of cost when ready for delivery to the hospitals	113,222.21

Although there was considerable complaint made at the first by the stewards as to various articles furnished, and also the prices of some of the supplies, we are convinced it was partly from the fact that it was a new work, and that we started before we were fully ready, and before there was a definite understanding between the purchasing agent in Philadelphia and the agent in this city, who was assigned to this duty, as was supposed, only temporarily.

As a rule, the surgeons of the hospitals seem perfectly satisfied that the supplies which they receive through the Sanitary Commission are of better quality, and at a much less price, than they could have obtained the same in the markets of this city.

Some of the stewards of the hospitals still get a large amount of their supplies in the Washington market; and one of the reasons that led the Sanitary Commission to undertake this work was, to prevent the stewards from receiving a per cent. from the dealers there.

If the order issued by the Medical Director to the surgeons of the hospitals, bearing date of June 23d, 1863, in which he says: "The Surgeon-General directs that the purchase of such supplies will be made by you from no other source, except in cases of emergency," was obeyed to the letter, there is little doubt that the men in the hospitals would get a larger amount of fresh food than they can if the stewards are allowed to purchase elsewhere, and in this way reducing the hospital fund lower

than it would have been had they purchased through the Commission.

If the hospitals were all fully supplied by the Commission, it would be no extra expense, either in purchasing or in insuring, as the force which is necessary to do the amount of work now done, could do what extra work there would be from the increase of orders.

From the reports of other departments of our labor at Washington, we find that the organization for procuring soldiers' pay, in connection with Lodge No. 4, has been at work during the quarter ending Dec. 31st, 1863, with the following results:

Whole number of cases taken	457
Number completed by securing certificates of pay	291
Number completed in which no certificates were granted	80
Total number of completed cases	371
Total number of incompleted cases	86
Amount represented by completed cases	$12,201.00

And the "Home," at the same place, has, during the same period, given food, shelter, and assistance, in the following number of cases:

Whole number admitted	1,576
" lodged	9,954
" of meals furnished	24,885
Number admitted to the hospital	198
Number of deaths in hospital	8

Of the extent to which all parts of the Union are benefited by this department of our labors, and of the jealous and watchful indifference—if we may use the expression—to all distinctions of birthplace, status, or political creed, with which it is carried on, some idea may be formed from the following table. There is but one valid claim on the assistance of "The Home"—that is, sickness, or destitution, or friendlessness, caused by the war:

Maine	59	Delaware	29
New Hampshire	46	Pennsylvania	202
Vermont	46	Maryland	16
Massachusetts	164	Dist. of Columbia	13
Rhode Island	24	Ohio	16
Connecticut	40	Indiana	20
New York	102	Illinois	10
New Jersey	15	Wisconsin	46
Iowa	1	Michigan	95
Minnesota	6	Regular army	77
Missouri	14	Invalid corps	32
Colorado	1	Q. M. Department	25
Political prisoners	4	Nurses	2
Citizens	10		

HOW THE REBEL PRISONERS FARE.

The subjoined communication from one of our inspectors on the condition of the rebel prisoners at Point Lookout, Md., is a very emphatic rejoinder to the counter charges of ill treatment and starvation with which the Richmond papers are now seeking to cover up the misconduct of their own officials with regard to our men. When we last wrote on this subject, there was a good deal in the sanitary condition of the camp at Point Lookout that admitted of improvement. In other words, there was a want of thorough policeing, though not greater than is occasionally seen in our own camps, where officers are inattentive to one of their most important duties. This has now been remedied, and the fact with regard to the prisoners' increase in weight, which our inspector produces, proves beyond question that physically the condition of a Confederate soldier in our custody is much better than it would be if serving in the ranks of any of his own armies. And this is something that nobody will regret. Nothing can aid better in breaking down the military power of the Confederacy, which is now, beyond question, all that remains of the rebellion, than the kind treatment of the men who fall into our hands. Any thing like retaliation for the cruelties inflicted on our prisoners at Richmond, would only be excusable on the ground that it was necessary to secure a mitigation of their sufferings. Resort to it, for any other reason, would not only evince a want of self-respect on our part, but would be exceedingly bad policy.

General Butler has, we believe, sought to fortify his position in the negotiations now pending for an exchange of prisoners, by the affidavits of several rebel non-commissioned officers, touching the food and clothing of the prisoners, and we are informed their tenor is very similar, and on some points stronger, than that of the reports of our agents.

I have the honor to enclose six hundred (600) reports of individual inspection of prisoners of war at this point. My work goes on well. On the whole, I think the prisoners are satisfied with their rations and the treatment they receive from the officers having them in their charge.

Some interesting facts are developed in the course of my work. When I commenced this

inspection here, I was struck by the fact, that nearly every man examined, expressed surprise at his not weighing more; it was quite usual for them to say, "I have lost twenty, thirty, or fifty pounds." As an inducement to the men to be examined, I have permitted them (having been already examined) to use the scales, the dinamometer and spirometer, whenever they are not in use. The result is, I find they have almost uniformly increased in weight and strength. This with the fare and comforts of a "Yankee prison!" Many of them appreciate the luxury of having plenty of "Uncle Sam's hard tack" and salt pork, and express themselves determined never to go back to Rebeldom and short rations.

Under the excellent management of Surgeon Thompson, the camp hospital is very much improved, and the whole camp presents a much better appearance than that of a few weeks since. It is better arranged, better *policed*—better in every respect. Scurvy has nearly "made its disappearance." I think the condition of the rebels in the hands of the United States will compare *very favorably* with that of our men in Richmond, allowing that the reports received from there are four-fifths exaggerated.

I hardly think our men in "Libby" and "Castle Thunder" are *growing fat* on rebel rations.

THE PROTECTIVE WAR-CLAIM AGENCY IN PHILADELPHIA.

The Protective War-Claim Agency of the U. S. Sanitary Commission had its origin in the desire to effect a prompt settlement of the claims of soldiers and their relatives upon the Government, and to afford protection against the exorbitant demands too often made by claim agents. The measure met with the cordial approval of the departments at Washington, whose labors it tended to facilitate by diminishing the opportunities for the prosecution of fraudulent claims. A board of managers was organized, and an examining surgeon and solicitor were appointed in May, 1863, and, in the same month, an office was opened in the building occupied by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, at No. 1307 Chestnut street, Philadelphia. The result has fully demonstrated the value of the enterprise. Without any special effort to call public attention to the work of the agency, nearly one thousand claims were presented to it in the first six months of its operation, and the business has shown each month a steady increase. Two-thirds of these claims were preferred by soldiers coming from all parts of the loyal States, who had been honorably discharged from the United States service by reason of wounds or sickness incurred therein, and the remainder were made by the relatives of deceased soldiers. In addition to its regular work of prosecuting claims for pension and bounty, the agency has been instrumental in obtaining their descriptive lists for soldiers who had lain months in hospital without pay for want of those papers, and in correcting, through the aid of its correspondents at Washington, errors in the final statements of discharged soldiers, which would otherwise have occasioned them serious loss. By an arrangement with the paymaster, Major Taggart, and the United States District Attorney, the back pay due prisoners of war at Richmond is also procured for their wives or mothers upon sufficient proof being made of such captivity and of the claimant's identity. These matters are all adjusted and payments made without any cost to the applicant, except a trifling fee paid to the magistrate for executing the necessary affidavits. The saving thus effected to parties who are, in nearly every case, of very limited means, may be computed already at thousands of dollars. A few instances, selected at random, will effectually prove this: A woman, residing in Philadelphia, whose husband died in the service about eighteen months ago, applied, shortly after his death, to a firm doing business as claim agents, who engaged to procure her pension and bounty for the sum of ten dollars; at the end of eighteen months they handed over to her the amount of her claim for bounty, less a charge of twenty-five dollars for their services, and then told her that they had overlooked her claim for pension altogether. Another lady, the widow of an officer, to whom large arrearages were due, but whose claim required very little proof, and that of the simplest sort, and was promptly adjusted by the department, was forced to pay ten per cent. to a claim agent, whom she had employed for its collection. Although a severe penalty is imposed by the act of July 14, 1862, where the charge by an attorney for prosecuting a pension claim exceeds the sum of five dollars, the provision is often evaded, by charges for additional papers, which are seldom requisite if the claim is originally properly prepared.

One great hinderance to the satisfactory adjustment of claims for the bounty and back pay of soldiers dying in the service, and it is feared, to the work of enlisting recruits, is found in the tedious process to which those claims are subjected before final action upon them is had at the Second Auditor's Department. At least a year usually elapses from the date of the soldier's death before the bounty and back pay remaining unsettled can be secured to his widow or children. This period is usually the one in which his loss is most felt, pecuniarily, by his family. Legislation upon this point,

either in the way of increasing the force of clerks in the departments charged with the settlement of these claims, or in that of simplifying the accounts of the army, is imperatively needed. To alleviate, in some degree, the distress occasioned by this delay, it is designed to set apart a sum from the funds of the Commission, from which to advance small sums in very neeessitous cases, upon claims on file at the agency; but the relief thus afforded, it is manifest, must be very meagre and inadequate.

The value of the Protective War-Claim Agency must be evident from this statement of its purposes and principles. If any further evidence of its right to the confidence of the soldier, and the friends of the soldier, were needed, it would be found in the character of its officers. Mr. Wm. H. Tilghman is the Chairman of the Committee, and among its directors are Horace Binney, Jr., Alexander Brown, William Welsh, Hon. J. J. Clarke Hare, Charles J. Stille, Benjamin Gerhard, Wm. L. Rehn, George Trott, George D. Parrish, George M. Connarroe, H. Lennox Hodge, M. D., and Atherton Blight. Mr. William M. Ashman is the Solicitor of the Agency. The institution has been quietly doing a good work for some months, and we think it right that the public should fully know it

Another branch of the same institution is at work in New York, as our readers will see by reference to the advertisement in our columns.

DRESS AND HYGIENE IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

Whatever errors are conspicuous in the dress of the army and the volunteer force, may be traced mainly to a neglect of those hygienic considerations suggested by the duties peculiar to the soldier and the volunteer. The former is sacrificed to decorate sartorial effects; the latter has too commonly sacrificed himself by adopting an attire which is but a mongrel version of the dress of the soldier of the line, lacking the relief derived from brilliancy of color and ornamentation, and equally unsuited for active service in the field. What can be more lamentable, from an æsthetical point of view, than a volunteer regiment composed of the long and the short, the meagre and the stout, the angular and the rounded, clad in tight-fitting and straight-cut trowsers? Fitted only for the well-formed, no dress more fully brings into prominence all the ugliness of the ill-formed; dependent upon the integrity of the stiff lines originally devised and set up by the tailor, and not on easily and gracefully flowing folds, for such beauty as it possesses, none is more unsuited for the rough wear and tear of campaigning.

That complete diffusion of body and limbs on the ground, which is a necessity of proper rest after marching or fighting, is an impossibility while the body and extremities are so tightly girthed; and comfort in squatting on the hams or kneeling is to be obtained only by reckless indifference to the original formation and integrity of the inexpressibles.

It needs but a glance at the condition of dress of the regular soldier off duty at nightfall, in in the field, in camp, or in barracks, to see that the tight-fitting tunic and straight-cut trowsers were devised only for the erect position. Every button unloosed, to secure some degree of freedom to his limbs, he is the very antithesis of the orderly, well-set locomotive uniform which most gratifies the eyes of the martinet.

The loose jacket with which the soldier is permitted to indue himself in the intervals of duty is not merely a hygienic requisite, but it is also necessary as a preventive of mutiny.

Previous to the Crimean war, the soldier, sartorically regarded, was simply looked upon as a tailor's block, and not as a living sentient being. It was anticipated that the inquiries of the Royal Commission of 1857 on the sanitary state of the army, would give the *coup de grace* to this perverted notion. Certainly they led to the excision of that portentous decoration and illimitable expenditure of braid and gaudy worsteds, which had previously constituted the highest expression of military æsthetics.

But the great principle by which the Commission sought to ballast the sartorial vagaries of the Horse-Guards has proved far less effective than was to have been desired. "Too much importance," said the Commission, "cannot be attached to an easy adjustment of the clothing, so as to leave to the respiratory and other organs of the body, as well as to its muscular development, the utmost freedom." Six years have elapsed since this important opinion was enunciated, yet we find a recent committee of officers formed for the purpose of simplifying the equipment of the soldier, occupied chiefly with the following questions: The substitution of a loose serge-jacket for the tight-fitting and uncomfortable shell-jacket, now in use for summer and ordinary field days; the selection of a forage cap of presentable aspect and comfortable for wear, the Kilmarnock cap in use being as difficult to "set up" and keep in order as starched linen, and when set up destructive of mental and cranial comfort; removing the useless hand-slash of the tunic, and giving a larger and more comfortable sleeve. Other al-

terations in dress and equipments are proposed, all tending to ease somewhat the bound-up limbs of the unhappy soldier. Is there no military Teufeldrockh to show that ease and freedom, durability and military smartness and handsomeness, are not inconsistent with each other, and may be combined in one attractive whole?

The recent Royal Commission on the Indian army approached the subject of dress with great diffidence. Admitting there had been great improvements of late years, it gave a qualified approval to the present dress of the European soldier in the tropics, and limited its suggestions to the under-clothing, the head-dress, and the boots. It urged that the use of a light flannel garment next the skin should be made imperative—an admirable suggestion, if the texture of the material be such as not to make its adoption a torture.

The form and structure of the boot were justly animadverted upon. The English gentlemen's broad-soled, broad-toed, flat-heeled walking shoe or boot, is the perfection of a covering for the foot, in form, ease, and utility. Why, then, should our soldiers be condemned to the present wretched shapeless abortions of ammunition-boots? The head-dress, murderously perverted too often at home, is of pre-eminent importance in India. It would be impossible, probably, to suggest any thing to surpass in ease, comfort, or elegance, a modification of the turban; but the conventional sartorial notions of the military mind seem to interpose an insuperable obstacle to its adoption. The wicker-work helmet now in use in India affords considerable protection to the head against the sun's rays; but several improvements are suggested by Mr. Julius Jeffreys, F. R. S., of the Bengal army, to which the Commission directs particular attention. "He proposes to make the outer shell of the helmet double, with a ventilated space between the layers, and within the shell there is a lining to fit tight to the head, leaving another ventilated space between the inner surface of the shell and the wearer's head.

The object of the contrivance is to insure the passage upwards of two distinct currents of heated air between the outer shell of the helmet and the head. In order to diminish the power of the outer shell to absorb the sun's rays, the inventor proposes to cover it with a thin, highly-polished metallic surface. The fatal objection to this helmet is its ungainly aspect.

It is a curious and somewhat inexplicable fact, that Mr. Merret's ingenious "Ventilating Gusset" should not have received the attention of the Commission. The advantages proposed to be derived from this invention are best set forth in a report on an experimental trial made with it in the 7th Royal Fusiliers, stationed at Ferozepori. The commanding officer, in his official report, states that the gussets had the effect of preventing an accumulation of perspiration; they kept the parts they covered cool and clean, and they strengthened the garment. Few things are more obnoxious during active or practical exercise in hot weather than profuse perspiration in the arm-pits, overheating and irritation of the cleft of the buttocks, and chafing of the upper part of the thighs. The remedying of these evils must be a boon to the civilian as well as the soldier. Many of the former have already certified to the efficacy of Mr. Merret's invention in bringing about this desirable result, and it is to be trusted that the military authorities will subject it to wide experiment with the latter.—*Lancet.*

THE GREAT BROOKLYN AND LONG ISLAND FAIR.

We publish below a circular prepared by the Corresponding Secretary of the Executive Committee of the great Sanitary Fair, and also a full list of the committees appointed to carry its objects into effect:

CIRCULAR.

Dear Sir: In the terrible conflict now being waged for the preservation of our Government and Nationality, every thing belonging to our personal, social, and political welfare is at stake, and the brave and gallant men in arms are perilling their lives, and giving up the comfort and joy of their homes in our stead. They fight these hard battles for us. They endure severe exposure for us. They are wasting away in the filth and starvation of rebel prisons for us. And, when stricken down by the diseases of the camp, or wounded and maimed in the field, they have a right, sanctioned by every patriotic and humane consideration, to expect the nation to come to their succor. The United States Sanitary Commission, by its most disinterested and gratuitous labors, has proved itself the wise, prompt, faithful, reliable, and sufficient agent of the nation in this regard; and, therefore, by a Fair, to be opened on the birthday of the Father of his Country, the 22d of February next, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, we purpose and confidently expect to secure from the city, and the entire island, a contribution of at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to its treasury. The inspiring examples of other cities, Chicago, Boston, Cincinnati, should excite among us an honorable emulation. Let it be seen that in this great national crisis we are at least as generous, self-sacrificing, and resolved, as the foremost of them. This enterprise has been undertaken at the instance of the Woman's Relief Association and the War Fund Committee of this city. As an earnest of the spirit which has prompted it

and will carry it through, we point to the fact that at a meeting of the General Committee, on the 19th ult., twenty-five thousand five hundred dollars were subscribed on the spot—an amount already increased to forty thousand dollars. As a further pledge that the enterprise shall not fail, we subjoin the names of those of either sex who have consented to share its management; with those of the various sub-Committees, who are responsible for the complete working of the several departments of the Fair. We appeal to our fellow-citizens and noble women here and throughout the island, and to those elsewhere who may fairly be expected to sympathize with us in our undertaking, to lend their aid by personal efforts and by the largest contributions of material and money, of agricultural produce, of the fruits of manufacturing and mechanical skill, of works of art, of any thing and every thing from their industry, ingenuity, or abundance, which may swell the grand result for which we look.

Further particulars in relation to the arrangements for the Fair will be made known as early as possible, by circulars from the several special committees, and by other documents from the Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, any desired information in regard to the Fair may be had of the Corresponding Secretary, either by personal application at the rooms of the War Fund Committee, 16 Court street, daily, Sundays excepted, between the hours of 9 and 11, and 3 and 5; or by mail to his address; or, for ladies, at the Depot of the Woman's Relief Association, 30 Court street.

FREDERICK A. FARLEY, D. D., Cor. Sec.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

A. ABBOTT LOW, Chairman of the General Committee.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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A meeting was held on Saturday evening last, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, in aid of the Fair, at which Henry Ward Beecher said:

I had hoped to meet several gentlemen present whom I do not see, and who were to bear their welcome part of this task, which is not a task, not even a duty, but it may be said is a necessary pleasure. There are some things that it is painful to do; there are some things that, because they are painful, bring so much exertion to the doing of them, that men are thought to do them with a will, whereas it is because they are painful that men bear up toward them with such earnest effort. But to stand in the midst of a Christian community, known and widely reported for its charity, whose example is quoted the world over—to stand in such a community to plead for such a charity as that we now meet to serve, that is not a task, or even a duty, but a necessary pleasure. Allusion has been made already to the general topics of the day, the conflict which is waged and yet to be waged—that which gives occasion for such a meeting as this; but it is not of these that I would or shall speak, but simply a word or two in regard to those that have gone forth and are suffering in this conflict. I was asked to-day by a friend, whom I see present this evening, whether I thought this Sanitary Commission was really needed, and whether there was not some little humbug about it; for, he said, he was told by a friend that an officer in the army had informed him that there was no need of it, no occasion for it. I cannot say who that officer was; I will not suppose but that he was sincerely mistaken; but I have no doubt that he was mistaken, wholly and absolutely, for I do not speak merely in consequence of the enthusiastic utterances which you as well as I heard here last year from that most laborious public servant, Dr. Bellows, nor merely from the reports in the papers. It has been my good fortune to have a brother-in-law called into this service, and for more than a year he has been laboring in behalf of the sick and wounded of our army in Washington, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, and New Orleans, where he now is; and it is through him that I learn of the interior reality of this great mission of mercy; and though I do not undertake to endorse that which needs none, yet I say I have no more doubt of its necessity and mercy than of the sun that shines in the heavens by day, or any other fact of my existence. If there lingers in any mind a doubt—and "he that doubteth is damned already," it is said—of the the great good of this association, let the doubt be cleared away at once. I have confidence in the society and the men who manage it, and there is no other channel through which you can better convey your help to those who need it than this. I have sometimes thought that we know very little of true patriotism. It is not such as we who are comfortable at home and pitch from the loaf of our abundance a crumb here and there—a large crumb perhaps from the individual, but how small in the aggregate, when compared with our comforts and the necessities of those to whom it is given. I was conversing to-day with a friend of former years, who in an incident she related to me revealed the temper of her own kind heart. Her little boy, not able to speak plainly, seeing a pale soldier on the street before her house, went up to him and asked him if he was sick. The soldier replied, No, that he was hungry. The boy lisped out in his broken prattle, "Ma keeps a soldiers' hotel; come in." He came in and got a cup of coffee, and the little fellow, encouraged by the success which had attended his first endeavor, went out and brought in twenty-seven others. They had been on a boat traveling from Friday until Monday, with nothing to eat but crackers and river water, and were quite ready to appreciate the excellent breakfast to which they soon sat down. As they sat at the table, the good lady noticed a resemblance between two of them—they were brothers. "Ah," said she, "how pleasant it must be to have a brother with you in the army." "Oh," he replied, "there are more than two, there are five of us brothers here." So there were; five stalwart, brave fellows had gone together from one family. There was another who was a cripple who could not go, and another who was too young, but it was all they could do to prevent the old man going too. That I call patriotism. Who of us have done any thing that can be mentioned in the same day as that? I know of instances in which the only child has gone and not been taken back; and when one and another falls, and every day brings nearer the prospect that this only child may fall. I know heroic mothers who stand firm to the offering they have made, and will not draw back their gift. Who of us is patriotic in this measure? Let me read a line from a young woman, a woman of education and culture, belonging to a wealthy family in the West, who has given most of her time since the war began to the soldier's service, having gone out with the first regiment from that noble State, Indiana:

"Nothing ever touched me so much as cheers from those hospital cots. When the fall of Vicksburg was announced in Jackson Hospital, at Memphis, the whole great building, filled with terribly wounded, rang for an hour with cheers and songs. Some sang and shouted who never had strength to speak again, and many who knew they should never hear of another victory on earth.

"I am trying to be patient and stay at home without fretting; but I can't see how people can say, 'Well, you ought to rest and enjoy yourself awhile, you have done enough.' All the work I ever had in my life that gave me full heart-room and the best of rest and joy is that same hospital work, and nothing could induce me to endure this sort of 'rest' a minute but that father needs me, and my duty is at home for the present. I pray every hour for the chance of going back with a clear conscience, and I know I shall.

"I speak of it as 'work.' It isn't work to me. I *love* everybody who has raised a hand for true love of the cause, and my first enthusiasm never wore off. Ignorant, filthy, and coarse as some must be who need the services of hospital nurse, yet always the first sight of a wound or a pale face that is the price of a service to our country, makes its owner a hero to me at once, and all labor for him an honor and pleasure. I

do get tired, but it is only the flesh, and that isn't real weariness."

It is my pride to believe that there is not a city or village in the land that has not such patriots as these; and where such natural ministers of peace are stirred up at once to such true patriotism—where they give not merely their possessions and their labor, but their own selves, their very spirit and body becoming a hovering and ministering presence in sickness and the camp—shall we doubt one single moment? There is a zeal, a divine spirit of patriotism in the country, that shall bear us through, and we shall be true to every duty of humanity, every instinct of pity and piety.

I might add some considerations drawn from your position in this city; but though I do not disregard or undervalue them, I base my appeal to you on higher grounds. I should be proud to have Brooklyn stand, if not first, at least high up on the roll of honor; and still further should be proud to have my own people stand highest among you; but local pride, though it might have a subordinate place, is not that to which I would appeal.

It is to that common to you and all the people of New York and the whole land; our common love of humanity, our common love of country, our common love of God, who, in the person of his Son, our Saviour, went about doing good, healing the sick, and comforting the suffering. It is to these higher motives that I would appeal, and I know I would not appeal in vain; and when Brooklyn shall have accomplished her labor of love, I know there will not be one thing to be ashamed of, but much to be proud of, and that God shall be pleased with the offering we shall bring. [Applause.]

And Mr. Moses F. Odell said:

I was at the White House nearly two years ago, and I remember to-night very well my sail up the Pamunkey River. I started with quite a company on the excursion, and we very soon came up to a vessel with the flag of the Sanitary Commission flying at her mast-head, and soon another, a larger steamer, flying the same flag. The Daniel Webster, and Wilson G. Small, and the Wissahickon, a little tender, and several others, were all there with the flags of this Commission flying from their mast-heads. I thought it a grand affair; very large it must be, to employ all these vessels, but probably very useless; but before I had been long at the White House there came down from Fair Oaks some five or six hundred wounded soldiers on a train of cars, and then I discovered the vast resources and usefulness of this Commission. I found on board those steamboats numbers of ladies and gentlemen, ready to go to work with willing hearts and able hands to administer to the wants of those wounded and dying men. Now the Government, I have no hesitation in saying, from the beginning of the war have had a proper appreciation of the needs of the soldier, and have done all in their power, but under such circumstances as these the Commission was ahead of them—hours and days ahead of the Government in the supply of what was needed on that occasion. [Applause.] I joined this Commission then at once, enrolled myself as a working and active member, and remained there four days and nights, during which time there were 3,465 wounded men received, their immediate wants supplied, and necessary medical assistance furnished by the Commission, and they were then sent from there to the Washington and other hospitals. And, had not these vessels been there with their bountiful supplies to make the soldier comfortable in his wants and sickness, the suffering would have been untold. I shall never forget one incident, occurring during my services there. I had taken in my hand a pail of iced lemonade, prepared from the stores of the Commission by some ladies from New York, who were with us, and went out to the cars to distribute it among the wounded. I never shall forget one poor fellow I saw there. He had been left for dead on the field, and the rebels had robbed him of every thing—that is their profession; they have done it ever since the beginning of the war; they had taken all his clothes, and he was wrapped in a blanket. He was scarcely able to speak, but he showed me his wounds, and I gave him a glass of lemonade, for which he returned a look of inexpressible gratitude. A ball had taken out his right eye and came out behind his ear, and he was not expected to live; but two or three weeks afterward, in a hospital where I went to find some of the Fourteenth Regiment boys, I found him with a patch over his eye, seemingly getting well, and he said to me: "Sir, I wish I had a house and lot to give you." Now I was only the instrument of the Sanitary Commission; it was their ice and their lemonade, and I was simply the instrument to carry it from their boat to the car, to this poor fellow. You may give many dollars, but cannot pay for or balance the comfort and good they did that man and thousands of others like him. And such scenes as this I witnessed constantly during the four days and nights I remained there.

The agents and employees of the Commission (but few of them paid, I am happy to say) rendered most efficient and faithful service the whole time. I will tell you another instance of how good a thing this Sanitary Commission is. A young man came to me one evening, saying: "There is a young man in the second cabin whom I think you would like to see." "They are rebels there," I said. "Yes," he replied, "they are; but come and see the man." I went with him, and meeting on the stairs that good man and true philanthropist, Mr. Barclay, of Philadelphia, he went with us. Seeing the man's condition, I said to him: "They tell me you are badly wounded." "Yes, sir," said he: "I don't suppose I shall live long; but I want to tell you that ever since I have been brought among you here I have been treated with so much kindness—all my wants have been satisfied, and even luxuries supplied me, so very different from what I had been led to expect, that I want to make one more request of you. I want you to write to my wife and four little children, and say I died penitent for ever raising my hand or gun against so good a people as you are." That rebel's heart was softened by the kindness of this Sanitary Commission. I saw the same things again at the battle of Fredericksburg. The Commission was there again, long ahead of the Government, with all their plenteous bounty, bestowing it with a liberal hand on all who needed it.

Again at Gettysburg I saw the same class of incidents. I there went to a hospital where I

was informed that some of the Fourteenth Regiment wounded were lying, and I found on the ground floor of a small house seventeen men connected with that regiment, every man with an arm or leg off, lying upon straw. The surgeon was kind, and did all he could, but they were, as I have said, lying upon straw, and all as they were picked up off the field, grimy, bloody, and dirty. I went through the town trying to buy seventeen clean shirts for them, but could not get them for love or money. I at length went to the quarters of the association, and told Dr. Bellows, whom I found there, of my need of shirts, bed-ticks, and sheets. "Knock open that box, John," called the Doctor to an assistant, and in a few moments I had all I wanted. And if you had seen me then in Gettysburg, you would have seen a man not very fond of carrying bundles, by the testimony of his wife, perfectly happy in the possession of an immense bundle of all those poor fellows needed. How their countenances lit up with joy when they saw what was then more to them than houses or lands! Why, the $35,000 you raised the other day did not pay for those seventeen shirts, bed-ticks, etc. Mr. Beecher says he wants Brooklyn to be very near the head of the roll. I want her away up head, and I think we will get there if this same spirit lasts.

THE WORK OF RELIEF IN EASTERN VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND.

Dr. Steiner, Chief Inspector of Relief, has made the following very interesting report at the session of the Commission now being held in Washington, on the work of relief since July last, in the armies of Eastern Virginia and Maryland, excepting the troops in Washington, Baltimore, and Maryland:

The Field Relief Corps, placed in the Army of the Potomac July 18, 1863, has since that time steadily labored in that field, down to the date of the present Report, gaining the respect and confidence of the officers of the army as well as the good will and gratitude of the men. It has become an "*institution*," so to speak, in the army, and has adapted itself in such a way to meet the wants of the service, that the plan of the Commission, as a supplementary organization to the medical corps, acting with its approbation, and, where it is possible, under its direction, has been strictly carried out. Experience has been gained by its members which has wonderfully increased its efficiency; and I have no hesitation now in claiming for it the right to be considered one of the best modes, if not the very best, of administering the bounties of the people to the soldiers, without interfering with the regular routine of military life and discipline in the slightest manner.

The operations of this corps have been conducted up to date in the manner indicated in document No. 72, viz.: the agents live in the respective corps to which they have been assigned by the superintendent, have their tents pitched along with the ambulance corps, where their wagons and stores are generally retained. They visit the hospitals, whether division, brigade, or regimental, find out wants from the medical officers or from personal inspection, and then see that these are supplied, the surgeons generally dispatching ambulances or wagons for them; or, in case of their inability to obtain this transportation, the agent employs his own wagon for the purpose. When the army moves the sanitary wagon moves with it. The agent looks out for cases where individual relief is needed, and furnishes it directly, because such cases are sometimes so circumstanced that it would be impossible to get medical attention without long delay. By his acquaintance with the officers of the corps he is enabled to move along the marching column unhindered by questions that would necessarily meet the stranger. The reports of the agents, referring to the movements of the army of the Potomac, will show how great were the opportunities afforded them from time to time of bringing kindly relief to the suffering and wayworn soldier.

This work demands not only zeal and earnestness, but that the agent should be possessed of a good judgment, enabling him to distinguish between an affectation of suffering and distress and that which is real and unaffected. The former can be assumed by the malingerer in so plausible a way that the novice to this work of philanthropy is always liable to gross deception. He gives *because* the demand is made. He does not investigate the nature of this demand, nor the probable truth on which it is based. He gives freely and without stint. The undeserving are thus rewarded for their cunning and lies, and the stores which the sympathizing women of the nation have forwarded for the use of the suffering, are prostituted to satisfying the greed of the worthless. This is especially the case with lady visitors to our camps. With hearts

full of generous sympathy, and spirits eager to relieve suffering—their sole desire being to aid their brothers in the name not only of a common national cause, but in accordance with the Christian rule that meat should be given to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, lodging to the houseless, clothing to the naked, and consolation to those in prison. The idea of deception on the part of those requesting aid is never dreamed of by these ministers of charity. Their mission is a holy one, and all thought of untruth on the part of those claiming assistance is necessarily absent from their minds. There is another class of persons, also, unfitted for the work of relief—those proceeding from State organizations, and eager to give publicity to the results of their operations in the army. They give to every one asking, give freely, and thus do injury also to the cause of relief. The principle underlying the work of the Relief Agents of the Sanitary Commission—that underlying the whole design of the Commission—is to work as far as possible with the approbation of the Medical Officers, furnishing supplies under their orders, or directly to *individual* cases after carefully examining into the real character of such. A sound judgment, unaffected by mere sentimentalism, or unsuspecting tenderness of heart, and most certainly free from all desire of parade and show—a sound judgment, I say, conjoined with an earnest sympathy with *real* suffering, and a holy love of the Union and all its defenders—this is imperatively demanded from every one who wi hes to do satisfactory work in the way of Field Relief.

One important feature in our operations is, to make every effort so that the soldier shall receive every thing to which he is entitled from Government. Whenever articles are properly obtainable from the purveyor, quartermaster, or commissary, an effort is always made to aid him to secure such from the regular sources; and when this fails, then to come to the rescue with the voluntary bounties of the people. If the want is so imminent as to demand immediate attention, the needed stores are furnished at once.

In the month of November my attention was directed to a plan for the addition of a flying ambulance arrangement to the Field Relief Corps. After some weeks' consideration of this subject, on the 23d of the same month I approved a plan which was proposed by a Russian physician, Dr. Herman Baalen, who was represented as having had considerable experience during the Crimean war in the management of a flying ambulance depot. This plan was shortly afterwards put into operation, through the orders of the associate secretary in Washington, Mr. Knapp. Finding on my return to duty, after a few weeks' leave of absence, necessitated by increasing indisposition, that this flying ambulance arrangement would not be required during the winter, and that very important changes would be necessary before it would adapt itself to the needs of the Commission, an order was issued dispensing with it on December 11, 1863.

The arrangements for the Field Relief Corps during the coming quarter will require certain changes, which economy and the character of the needs of an army in winter quarters require. It is intended that the agents shall have the field store-house, which is generally situated at the quartermaster's depot of supplies, as their headquarters. The wagons will be brought in during the months of inactivity. The agents, with their saddle horses, will move through the corps as occasion shall require, ascertain what wants exist, and endeavor to have these supplied, either through the medical officers, or by personally carrying the stores and directly meeting individual want. The superintendent will have the opportunity of learning almost daily the condition of the work in each corps, and of giving directions continually on the subject. The whole family will have frequent opportunities of profiting by each other's experience, and stimulating each other to continuous good work. One or more wagons will be retained at the field store-house to meet such emergencies as may require the transfer suddenly of stores from one point to another. When active operations are once more resumed in the army, the wagons will be replaced. It must be understood that in this arrangement it is not necessary that the agent should reach the field store-house every night—indeed, the nature of

his business may require him to remain away from the headquarters for days on a trip—the only change of the plan as regards the quarters of the agent being that these shall be now for the winter at the field store-house, and not separated from the rest in each corps.

An earnest effort has been made to keep the expenses of this corps within reasonable limits, and the compensation allowed the agents is barely enough to meet the expenses necessarily incurred; still there has been no complaint, because the service has been entered upon with a strong attachment to the Federal cause, and an anxious desire to aid those who are so nobly fighting in its defence. The ordinary life of the army when inactive offers no attractions to most men, although the promptings of morbid curiosity will bring them in hosts to battle-fields; and it is during this inactive life that our relief agents are called upon to do yeoman's service. They must labor so that all obstacles to health shall be removed, and that the soldier shall be fitted for whatever may be required of him. A strong sense of duty must be the ruling motive, or more attractive positions would draw them off. Again, the position is frequently one of danger. Some of the agents have been under the enemy's fire in the performance of their duty, and all of them are exposed to capture in their lonesome rides through the corps of the army. Our position as the almoners of a people's bounteous consideration for the sick and wounded, has as yet practically *not* been recognized by the authorities of the Confederate Government. One of our teamsters, attached to the 5th Corps, George W. Longley, was seized by the rebels in a late attack on the army train, and is now believed to be a prisoner in Richmond. Considering that the invariable rule of the Commission has been to supply the wants of all the wounded and suffering within the Federal lines, and that the eyes of all Europe have been turned toward the general recognition of a corps of *Infirmiers Volontaires* as free from capture in time of war, (as specially shown in the late Congress held at Geneva,) it is mortifying to find that a similar recognition will not be granted by the Southern contestants to persons holding similar positions in our own armies. It is shameful that the reward for bringing succor to the wounded should be incarceration within the walls of a loathsome prison, and exposure to want, hunger, and loathsome disease. As the matter stands now, all this really impends over every one who works in the Field Relief Corps, and the danger is freely and fearlessly braved.

As a general thing, a weekly report has been made, through the Superintendent, on the work of relief in his corps by the agents. These reports are transmitted herewith, without correction or alteration, so that the record may exist as it was made at the time, and may be placed in the Archives of the Commission for the use of the future historian of this war.

I must state my candid opinion, that a more energetic, zealous body of young men I have never met with than those which constitute our corps in the Army of the Potomac. The position calls out all the faculties of mind and body. The agent has frequently to play hostler, cook, tailor, shoemaker, teamster, and indeed must know how to help himself out of every dilemma in which a man can possibly fall who is in the field away from the aids as well as the refining influences of civilization. He must be prepared for any and every form of accident that may meet him in his nomadic life—undergo all the hardships and much of the danger of a soldier's life, and yet be unaffected by the hope of preferment, the increase of rank or pay, or even by a notice in a general order. They labor on in their work quietly and unobtrusively, scattering the handiwork of the sewing circles of villages and country towns, as well as the larger stores of great cities, and thus making available what the glorious charities of our people are eager to extend to the suffering soldier. What a noble work is thus done by the joint aid of the furnishers and distributors of supplies, is only to known to Him who knows all things!

In this connection I must make special mention of the untiring assiduity of Capt. Isaac Harris, the Assistant Superintendent of the Corps, who has had charge in the field during the temporary absence of Mr. J. W. Johnson. His vigilance and activity are

only equaled by his jealous care for the good reputation of the Commission, and his resolute determination that no quasi-philanthropist shall use it for his own personal advantage or advancement. It is a fortunate occurrence that we have two men so devoted to our work as Mr. Johnson and Capt. Harris in the Field Corps. At best, only general directions for this work can be issued by the Chief Inspector, and it is a fortunate circumstance that these gentlemen have taken such an enthusiastic hold of their duties. Like every one connected with this hard-working, patient army, the love of country and of doing good nerves them to meet all exigencies as they arise.

Since the first formation of the Field Relief Corps at Boonsborough, Md., July 17, 1863, in addition to the four wagon loads of stores first sent forth—of which no account was made—the following articles have been issued through its agents up to the date of this report:

Brandy, Rum, and Whiskey	1,936	bottles.
Foreign and Domestic Wine	1,271	"
Jamaica Ginger	840	"
Extract of Beef	2,792	cans.
Condensed Milk	4,400	"
Corn Starch, &c., &c	4,533	pounds.
Soft Crackers	89½	barrels.
Pickles	436	gallons.
Jellies	610	jars.
Dried Fruit	21	barrels.
Tea	223	pounds.
Chocolate	1,012	"
Sugar	1,074	"
Chloroform	81	"
Tamarinds	110	gallons.
Tomatoes	156	cans.
Shirts, wool and cotton	6,301	
Drawers, "	5,513	
Socks, "	4,739	
Bed-ticks	1,522	
Blankets and Quilts	2,310	
Pillow Cases	1,712	
Handkerchiefs	1,414	
Tin Cups	1,204	
Towels	3,547	
Slippers	843	
Pillows	992	
Sheets	1,017	
Work Bags	200	
Tobacco	735	pounds.
Buckets	20	

In concluding this general sketch of *what the Field Relief Corps has been, and what it has done*, I must state that I consider my connection with it as one of the most satisfactory and extended opportunities of doing good that has ever fallen to my lot, and express my sense of thankfulness to Providence for the great privilege I have enjoyed of superintending and directing its operations.

On the 8th of December, 1863, I was put in charge of a district, including not only the Army of the Potomac, but all the troops in "Eastern Virginia and Maryland, (east from Cumberland,) excepting those connected with the defences of Washington, and those stationed at Baltimore and Annapolis." As the troops in the western portion of this district are mostly stationary, I did not deem it advisable to establish a depot of stores within its limits, or to keep a permanent relief agent with the command, but concluded to work for the present through the reports which our Sanitary Inspectors would make, as to the needs of the troops, hospitals, &c., on their visitations, intending, in case there should arise any special need, hereafter to detail a relief agent for this business. Acting in accordance with this plan, Dr. W. S. Swalm, Sanitary Inspector, was ordered (December 7, 1863) "to proceed by the earliest train to Cumberland, Md., with the view of ascertaining the wants of the troops and hospitals located in and near that town; thence to proceed to Martinsburg, Harper's Ferry, and Charlestown, for the same purpose," and if he should find hospitals at intermediate points, to visit them also. Dr. Swalm reported on the wants as he found them in his tour of inspection, and the needed stores were forwarded at once from the storehouse in Washington. From time to time similar visits for ascertaining wants in this portion of my district will be made by proper officers.

The section of Norfolk, including so much of Major-General B. F. Butler's command (18th Army Corps) as is stationed in Virginia, has been under the special care of James Gall, Jr., Relief Agent, whose sound judgment, kind heart, and gentlemanly character have enabled him to render efficient aid to the needs of this section, to support and give additional strength to the reputation of the Commission, and to gain the respect and confidence of the military officers with whom he has come into contact. He has steadily and regularly visited all the regiments and hospitals in his section with promptness, sent in his weekly reports of the nature of his work, furnished intelligible and accurate vouchers as regards expenditures of stores and moneys, and, in

a word, has shown himself to be *a model Relief Agent.* I have reason to believe that our work has been done most thoroughly and efficiently in this section.

When there was an opportunity of forwarding stores to Richmond, he acted promptly in this matter; and abundant proof has been afforded us of the acceptability of this work through the letters of Brigadier-General Neal Dow, and others, now incarcerated within the walls of Libby and Castle Thunder.

The stores forwarded from the Washington storehouse for use in Mr. Gall's section, (large quantities were also dispatched from Baltimore,) will be shown by the abstract accompanying this report.

I also ask attention to the Statement of Issues from the Norfolk storehouse during the year 1863, prepared by Samuel Bacon, the Commission's Storekeeper at that post.

BEDDING AND HOSPITAL FURNITURE.

	Issued.
Air Cushions	
Air Beds	
Bed Ticks	1089
Bed Pans	31
Blankets	758
Brooms	30
Chambers	28
Candlesticks	40
Combs, Coarse	140
Hospital Cots	8
Cushions	141
Head Rests	1
Lanterns	8
Medicine Cups	
Medicine Tubes	
Netting, Mosquito ..... pieces.	216
Oil Silk ..... yards.	62
Pillows	1632
Pillow Cases	5936
Pillow Ticks	254
Quilts	1579
Rubber Sheeting ..... yards.	32
Bowls	22
Sheets	4573
Tin Coffee Pots	2
Tin Pails	17
Sponges	124
Soap ..... lbs.	169
Towels	7166
Tin Cups	920
Tin Basins	185
Urinals	24
Wood Pails	3
Tin Plates	329
Knives and Forks	12
Spoons	84
Wash Boards	10
Clothes Pins	352
Shelter Tents	49

WEARING APPAREL.

	Issued.
Coats—Cotton ..... pairs.	150
Woolen ..... "	
Drawers—Cotton ..... "	3201
Woolen ..... "	2504
Canton Flannel ..... "	1245
Ear-Laps	124
Flannel Bandages	174
Handkerchiefs—Pocket	4460
Mittens ..... pairs.	304
Neck Ties	12
Arm Slings	50
Pants—Cotton ..... pairs.	165
Woolen ..... "	
Shirts—Cotton, Convalescent	
" Hospital	6166
Woolen	3376
Canton Flannel	324
" " Hospital	
Fancy Caps	28
Slippers ..... pairs.	3104
Socks—Cotton ..... "	
Woolen ..... "	4179
Vests—Cotton and Woolen	115
Wrappers—Thin and Thick	641
Mixed Vegetables ..... bbls.	12
Herring ..... boxes.	8
Apple Sauce ..... gals.	52
Eggs ..... bbls.	1

HOSPITAL FOOD AND DELICACIES.

	Issued.
Rice Flour ..... lbs.	113
Toast ..... bbls.	2
Apples, dried ..... "	105
Arrow Root ..... lbs.	917
Beef Soup ..... "	568
Beef, Concentrated Extract ..... "	1383
Brandy ..... bottles.	666
Butter ..... lbs.	311
Coffee ..... "	394
Canned Meat, Tripe ..... cans.	87
Tamarinds ..... gals.	230
Canned Vegetables ..... cans.	277
Cocoa ..... lbs.	182
Chocolate ..... "	2673
Coffee, Extract of ..... "	62
Condensed Milk ..... "	3955
Crackers ..... bbls.	35½
Corn Starch ..... lbs.	1561
Corn Meal ..... bbls.	19
Dried Fruit, assorted ..... "	68
Extract Jamaica Ginger ..... bottles.	550
Farina ..... lbs.	1465
Fruit Cordial ..... bottles.	56
Gelatine ..... pkgs.	36
Jellies and Preserves ..... bottles.	861
Flax Seed ..... lbs.	24
Maizena ..... "	108
Mustard ..... "	19
Lemons ..... boxes.	2
Oat Meal ..... bbls.	9
Onions ..... "	10
Pickles ..... gals.	745
Pepper ..... lbs.	41
Potatoes ..... bbls.	12
Sugar, White ..... lbs.	1307
Oranges ..... box.	1
Syrups ..... bottles.	127
Spices ..... lbs.	8
Tea, Black ..... "	255
Tapioca ..... "	121
Tobacco ..... "	48
Vinegar ..... bottles.	90
Vinegar, Raspberry ..... "	101
Wine, Foreign ..... "	632
Wine, Foreign, in bulk ..... gals.	84
Wine, Domestic ..... bottles.	293
Wine, Domestic, in bulk ..... gals.	7
Whiskey ..... bottles.	835
Whiskey, in bulk ..... gals.	16
Rum ..... "	12
Rum ..... bottles.	193
Ale ..... bbls.	10
Porter ..... gals.	279
Brandy ..... "	15

MISCELLANEOUS.

	Issued.
Chloroform ..... bottles.	60
Bay Rum ..... "	145
Catsup ..... "	11
Cologne ..... "	10
Camphor, Spirits of ..... "	6
Quinine ..... "	22
Crutches ..... pairs.	23
Apple Juice ..... cans.	8
Fans	461
Ext. Fruit ..... cans.	23
Games	20
Sago ..... lbs.	32
Lint ..... bbls.	5
Candles ..... lbs.	3
Magazines, &c ..... boxes.	9
Old Linen ..... bbls.	13

Pincushions and Needle Books	boxes.	3
Roll Bandages	bbls.	8
Horse Radish	bottles.	2
Matches	boxes.	144
Cod Fish	lbs.	830
Chicken	cans.	48
Lager Beer	bbls.	1

STATIONERY.

	Issued.
Envelopes	2875
Ink bottles.	25
Letter Paper reams.	
Note Paper quires.	173
Pencils	
Pen Holders	105
Pens	288

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As regards the troops in the defences of Washington, upon whose condition Dr. Steiner does not touch, a most satirfactory statement is made in a report from Dr. Julius Nichols, one of our inspectors, which has also been read at the present session of the Commission. He gives a consolidated report, showing the rate of sickness in each regiment, furnishing an exhibition of the most satisfactory state of health. He reports the prevalence of excellent morals among the men, and says that there is no tendency to any form of epidemic disease. Scarcely any typhoid exists, and there is a universal absence of scurvy. Everywhere throughout the forces, the greatest satisfaction was expressed by the men as to the quality and quantity of the Government rations; and in every regiment the "company funds," well gathered and used, provided a variety in the dietary of such articles as butter, milk, eggs, vegetables, etc., etc. A very general inclination to re-enlist among the veterans is reported by Dr. N., thus confirming the often-expressed belief of patriotic observers of the national army, that its soldiers are thoroughly in earnest in their devotion to the good cause, and determined "to see the thing out," as some of them commonly call the rebellion.

What Dr. Nichols says of the high morals of the forces within the defences of Washington, is true of the entire Federal army, with scarcely an exception. The lapse of more than two years, and the trials of repeated and severe campaigns, have eliminated from the army much of the poor material that clogged its ranks during the earlier period of their enlistment. We have now a rapidly increasing army of veterans.

☞ There is at present a great scarcity of warm mittens in the storehouses of the Commission, and the severity of the weather of course makes the want of them greatly felt in the army. It is earnestly requested that efforts may be made by our readers and all friends of the cause to supply this want, by sending forward supplies of them *at once* to the depots of the branch societies, the addresses of which are all given on page 187 of this number of the BULLETIN.

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OF THE

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NEW YORK.

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HENRY GREENFIELD, *Sec'y*,

35 CHAMBERS STREET, New York.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1*st. To secure the soldiers and sailors and their families, any claims for pensions, pay, or bounty, etc., without cost to the claimant.*

2*d. To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.*

3*d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.*

4*th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

BROOKLYN AND LONG ISLAND FAIR.

The LADIES who have been notified of their appointment as Managers of the Fair in aid of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, to be opened at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on the 22d February next, are respectfully reminded that they are expected to take immediate measures, within their respective congregations, and social or family circles, according to their own best judgment and discretion, for insuring the largest possible amount of aid to this great enterprise.

Mrs. J. S. T. STRANAHAN, President.

January 6th, 1864.

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The most perfect substitutes for lost limbs the world of science has ever invented, can be had only of WM. SELPHO & SON, PATENTEES.

N. B.—A Silver Medal awarded at the last Fair of the American Institute and New Haven County Fairs.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
A. D. Bache, LL.D., Washington, D. C.
F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
G. W. Cullom, U. S. A.
A. E. Shiras, U. S. A.
R. C. Wood, Assistant Surg.-Gen'l U. S. A.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., New York.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
C. R. Agnew, M.D., New York.
J. S. Newberry, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio.
Rt. Rev. T. M. Clarke, Providence, R. I.
Hon. R. W. Burnett, Cincinnati, Ohio.
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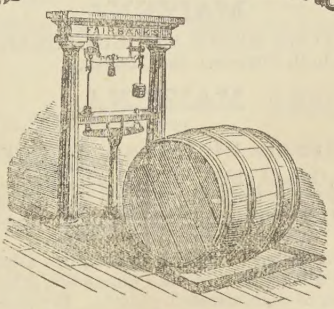

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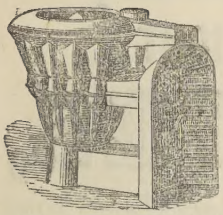

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